Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Compared to prior versions, claims 1 and 9 are amended. All others remain as originally presented.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a print job, comprising:

constructing a display list with a plurality of <u>to-be-printed</u> objects <u>being linked together on the display list, the display list not for viewing by an end user</u>; and

replacing two or more sequential said objects with a new object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said replacing further includes constructing a masked indexed image.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including constructing a look up table corresponding to values of said masked indexed image.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including determining whether said two or more sequential objects are opaque.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including determining whether said two or more sequential objects have regions in the form of a stencil.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further including determining whether said two or more sequential objects have a single color in said stencil.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including determining whether said two or more sequential objects have similar color intensities.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including determining whether said two or more sequential objects have a same halftone screen.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a print job, comprising:

constructing a display list with a plurality of objects being sequentially linked together on the display list, including constructing attributes of an object type, an object region or an object ink for each of said objects;

determining whether two or more sequential said objects are combinable by examining one or more of the attributes; and

replacing said two or more sequential said objects with a masked indexed image.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including constructing a look up table corresponding to values of said masked indexed image.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including converting said masked indexed image to a uni-dimensional masked indexed image.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including providing a scalar value for said uni-dimensional masked indexed image.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including constructing said masked indexed image with a region attribute substantially conforming to a merger of bounding boxes corresponding to said two or more sequential said objects.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said determining further includes setting a head pointer to one of said two or more sequential said objects and setting a tail pointer to another of said two or more sequential said objects.

15. (Original) A computer readable media having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 9.

16. (Original) A printer having a graphics engine with computer executable instructions stored in a memory accessible by the graphics engine for performing the steps recited in claim 9.

17. (Original) A method for processing a PDL print job in a printer, said PDL print job having at least two to-be-printed objects, comprising:

receiving an indication that said at least two to-be-printed objects have been presented;

constructing a display list having two sequentially arranged display list objects thereon, said display list objects corresponding to said at least two to-be-printed objects;

determining whether said display list objects are combinable;

replacing said display list objects with a masked indexed image; and

constructing a look up table having entries corresponding to values of said masked indexed image.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said determining further includes examining whether said display list objects are one of opaque, have regions in a stencil form, have similar color intensities, have a same halftone screen, have bounding box sizes beneath a desired size, have bounding boxes in proximity to one another, and have no more different colors than a maximum number of colors an index allows.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said determining further includes setting a head pointer to one of said display list objects and setting a tail pointer to another of said display list objects.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further including constructing said masked indexed image with a region attribute substantially conforming to a merger of bounding boxes corresponding to said two sequential arranged display list objects.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, further including converting said masked indexed image to a uni-dimensional masked indexed image and providing a scalar value therefor.

22. (Original) A method for processing a print job, comprising:
constructing a display list with a plurality of objects; and
constructing a bounding box for two or more sequential said objects for replacing said two or more sequential said objects with a new object, said bounding box having a region boundary therein masking a merged boundary of said two or more sequential said objects.

23. (Original) A method for processing a print job, comprising:

constructing a display list with a plurality of objects; and

constructing a bounding box about two or more sequential said objects for replacing a said two or more sequential said objects with a new object, said bounding box having a plurality of indexed image values one of said indexed image values being used to represent an area outside a union of said two or more sequential said objects of said bounding box.